

Discussion on Gaps

Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of continuity of programs/control. There are differences between public/private lands and federal/tribal lands. • Coordination between federal and local groups. • Communication gaps: Universities and between regions within the state. • Regional disparities in data.
Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no common criteria or indicators for ranking the priority of invasive species to address. Should priorities be decided by the worst problem or by most easy to eradicate? By ecological and economic impact or species mobility? By habitats that have not been invaded yet? • We have very little information on invasive animals (both aquatic and terrestrial), climate, reproduction, level of threat, virus/fungi/bacteria/pathogens/micro organisms (sudden oak death). • Highly invasive species are detected but there is no support to access them. • Address the relationship with invasive species and how they will be contained. • No clear phone number to call for information or to report invasive species.
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need funding to accomplish a baseline assessment. <i>Estimated cost not discussed.</i>
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need for trained staff to collect and record data.
Next Steps	Discussion on Next Steps
Workgroup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the Council, form a workgroup to oversee the project.
Demonstrate Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to show economic and ecological benefits of doing a baseline assessment. • Demonstrate to the legislature how a baseline assessment benefits the citizens of Washington.
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a research inventory. Survey who is doing invasive species research. • Research how we can best measure success. Scorecard? Quantitative Data?
Gather Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate to potential funders the economic and ecological benefits of doing a baseline assessment. There is a potential cost of doing nothing. • Create new funding sources (vectors: ports, roads, nurseries), interagency collaboration, climate change research, grassroots efforts to collect resources.
Decide on Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washington Invasive Species Council/Recreation and Conservation Office • Consultant program • Natural Heritage could be a potential data keeper within DNR • Habitat Work schedule

No changes to order of action items

<p>RECOMMENDATION NO. 1</p> <p>Compile existing information and conduct a baseline assessment of invasive species information and programs in Washington. This baseline would serve as an initial step towards coordinating a statewide, strategic response to the threat of invasive species. The baseline will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide analysis of the worst invasive species, locations of the areas most affected, pathways, and resources most at risk. ▪ Identify public and private efforts to prevent, control, or eradicate invasive species. ▪ Inform public and private entities as it improves the state's ability to coordinate resources. 	<p>Action 1.1 Develop council budget package, in coordination with partners, to compile existing information on species locations and programs in place.</p> <p>Action 1.2 Work with partners to compile existing data.</p> <p>Action 1.3 Perform functional gap analysis on state's capacity to address problem.</p> <p>Action 1.4 Report back to council on necessary steps to address gaps.</p> <p>Action 1.5 Develop a system and process to measure results of initial baseline assessment and update data to ensure invasive species programs and progress related to infestations can be analyzed.</p>
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